



The Marianists

Praying with our Marianist Saints

By **Bro. David Betz**

No doubt those of us who grew up in religious household have been taught that praying was communicating with or talking with God. Our parents spent time showing us how to hold our hands and position our bodies when it was time to pray. Of course, they also took us to church to model how to stand, to kneel and to respond to what was happening in the liturgy. As we grew up, we learned that prayer is a conversation initiated by God and it is our faith response to this initiation. Prayer is acknowledging God's action in our lives. **Henri Nouwen** (See [*Following Jesus, Finding Our Way Home in an Age of Anxiety*](#)) described praying as a threefold task: listen, ask, and dwell. He is reminding us that prayer is a time of paying attention to God's love in our lives. We also came to know that there are 5 types of prayer: praise, gratitude, blessing or adoration, petition and intercessory. When we want to pray with the saints or our Marianist Saints it usually falls into the categories of petition or intercessory.

Prayers of petition and intercessory are similar in their forms. They both involve asking God to assist us in some type of need. The difference is that in petition you are asking help for a personal need and in intercessory you are asking help for the need of another. Within these prayers you can address God directly or you can seek the aid from a holy person who intercedes for you to God. The holy person that one calls upon for aid tends to be someone that he or she has a special relationship with or an affinity with because of the attributes the saint is known for. For example, St. Monica, the mother of St. Augustine, is known to be the patron of mothers and for her perseverance in praying for her son's conversion. Praying with St. Monica, therefore, can be done when one is seeking perseverance in one's life or praying for one's biological mother or those who act as mothers in one's life.

Our Marianist Saints have been people who lived during times of crisis such as the French Revolution, the Spanish Civil War, and the Nazi Regime where they were steadfast in their faith and trusted in God's Providence. They have been educators in which they shared the Good News and invited others to live their faith lives to the fullest. They gathered people together into faith communities knowing that collaboration was essential for spreading the Reign of God. They worked for social justice and stood up for the marginalized and those in need because of God's call to acknowledge the dignity of others. As members of the Family of Mary, when we find ourselves in situations that involve crisis, sharing the Good News, living community, and calling out for justice, why not look to our Marianist Saints for the assistance that we need. Invite our Marianist Saints to intercede for us to God when we are calling on God's loving and hopeful action in our and others' lives and in society.

Finally, I want to share with you the list of our Marianist Saints and their feast days. I invite to you look at this and then consider spending time to learn more about them. Hopefully, you will be able to find what intrigues you about our Marianist Saints and then find ways to call upon them in your times of need or of gratitude. (The North American Center for Marianist Studies can help – www.nacms.org)

FEAST DAYS OF MARIANIST CANDIDATES FOR SAINTHOOD

January 10	Blessed Mother Adele de Trenquelleon (Mother Marie of the Conception)
January 22	Blessed William Joseph Chaminade
February 22	Venerable Domingo Lazaro
March 3	Venerable Faustino Perez-Manglano
August 13	Blessed Jakob Gapp
September 14	Venerable Mother Marie-Therese Charlotte de Lamourous
September 15	Servant of God Vicente Lopez de Uralde
September 18	Blessed Carlos Erana Blessed Jesus Hita Blessed Fidel Fuidio
November 6	Blessed Miguel Leibar Blessed Florencio Arnaiz Blessed Joaquin Ochoa Blessed Sabino Ayastuy
November 7	Servant of God Brother Juan Vergareche (Martyred on 11/7/1936)